

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, July 30, 2004*

## DC GEARS UP FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 3

Thousands of DC residents are expected to join with their neighbors, police officers and other community leaders in celebrating National Night Out this Tuesday, August 3. From community cookouts to open houses – block parties, candlelight vigils and even athletic events – DC is gearing up for the 21st annual celebration of “America’s Night Out Against Crime.” The citywide kickoff will begin at 5 pm at the Naylor Gardens Cooperative Community Apartments, in the 2700 block of 30th Street, SE, with food, music, crime prevention displays and other activities for participants of all ages. Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Councilmember Kevin Chavous, US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein and other elected and community leaders are expected to take part in the kickoff. In addition, communities across DC – in all seven police districts – have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours. For example, residents of the Yuma Street, SE “hot spot” in PSA 706 are organizing a community cookout and information fair. In PSA 303, the MPDC’s Latino Liaison Unit and community leaders are holding a community festival at 18th Street and Columbia Road, NW, in the heart of Adams Morgan. And in the Second District, PSAs 204 and 206 are combining efforts at a softball game and community cookout at the Guy Mason Recreation Center at Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street, NW.

① For a complete list of National Night Out events taking place in all seven police districts, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno\\_04.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno_04.shtml)

① To make its post-event report and awards application as comprehensive as possible, the MPDC would appreciate photographs, flyers or other documentation from local NNO events in DC. Send your materials to Kevin Palmer, MPDC, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC 20001, or email him at:  
[kevin.palmer@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.palmer@dc.gov)

① Even if you can’t participate in an organized National Night Out event, DC residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights and spend some time outdoors on the evening of August 3 – as a show of neighborhood solidarity against crime. Learn more about NNO at:  
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html>

## ARRESTS MADE IN TWO HIGH-PROFILE JUVENILE HOMICIDE CASES

They were cases that shocked not only the immediate communities where they occurred, but also the entire city. On the night of July 24, a 15-year-old Northeast girl was shot and killed while she sat with friends in a vehicle in the 1400 block of F Street, NE – the unintended victim of a hail of gunfire. Just days earlier, a 16-year-old Northwest boy was gunned down while standing in the 3700 block of Georgia Avenue, NW – also, apparently an unintended victim of street violence. This past week, detectives announced quick arrests in both cases. Twenty-two-year-old Joshua Ross, no fixed address, has been charged with Murder I while Armed in the shooting death of Myesha Lowe, a recent graduate of Hine Junior High School, in the F Street, NE case. The investigation into this homicide is continuing, and additional arrests are possible. In addition, detectives have arrested a 14-year-old DC boy on Murder I while Armed charges in connection with the killing of David McMorris on Georgia Avenue. The juvenile suspect was expected to appear in court to determine whether he would be charged as an adult. The two recent cases brought to 17 the number of juveniles age 17 and younger murdered in DC this year. That compares with 12 in all of 2003 and 16 in 2002. Juvenile homicides have increased this year, even as the total number of murders in DC has declined by 24 percent.

① Read the news releases on these two cases in the MPDC’s online News Room at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2797>

## OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY ARE HONORED

Officer Tommy Barnes of the Third District had been working overtime with the Warrant Squad, so he was familiar with several wanted subjects known to frequent 3D. During his regular PSA patrols, Officer Barnes carried photographs of many of the wanted subjects, including a male known to frequent his PSA. One afternoon, Officer Barnes observed the pictured subject in the 800 block of V Street, NW. The subject was known to have several outstanding warrants in DC and surrounding counties, and was a suspect in a Baltimore County homicide. Officer Barnes stopped the suspect without incident, placed him under arrest and transported him to the 3D for processing as a fugitive from justice. Detectives from Baltimore County were notified of his arrest as well. As a result of his hard work, knowledge of his PSA and keen observation skills, Officer Barnes was able to take a potentially dangerous fugitive off the streets of DC. He was one of 21 MPDC officers recently honored for their outstanding service during the July CHAMPS luncheon, held at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Southwest. The honored officers included two members from 1D, five from 2D, 11 from 3D and three from 4D.

## ENFORCEMENT BEGINS AUGUST 1 OF NEW REGULATIONS ON MOBILE PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING IN DC

Following a month-long warning period, MPDC officers begin issuing citations on August 1 to motorists who use hand-held mobile telephones or other electronic devices while driving in DC. The "Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004" took effect on July 1, although officers have been giving warnings only during the past month, as part of a public education and awareness effort. The law prohibits drivers from using a mobile telephone, hand-held computer, pager or other electronic device while operating a moving motor vehicle in the District, except when the phone or device is equipped with a hands-free accessory. The law defines a "hands-free accessory" as "an attachment, add-on, built-in feature, or addition to a mobile telephone... that when used allows the vehicle operator to maintain both hands on the steering wheel." Violations of the law carry a \$100 fine but no points on the operator's license.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Chief Ramsey on the Airwaves.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls on two separate radio appearances in the upcoming week. On Thursday, August 5, from 10-11 am, the Chief is the guest on WTOP's "Ask the Chief" program. On Saturday, August 7, from 8-9 am, the Chief joins Mayor Williams to discuss juvenile crime prevention on the "Mayor's Report" on Magic 102.3-FM.

**MPDC Career Expo on August 14.** With the goal of gathering more than 1,000 police officer applications over the next year, the MPDC holds its fifth annual Career Expo on Saturday, August 14, from 9 am to 5 pm, at the new Washington Convention Center. Applications, on-site testing and displays of MPDC equipment and training will be available. For details on Career Expo 2004, including the requirements for becoming an MPDC officer, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

① Read about all of their heroic actions at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/07.shtm>

① Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service, or CHAMPS, is an incentive award program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community. For more information, visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/champs.shtm>

① Read the news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2808>

① For a fact sheet on the Distracted Driving Safety Act of 2004, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/distracteddriver.shtm>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides (as of 7/30/04)

- 2004: 111
- 2003: 146
- % Change: -24.0%
- Closure Rate: 55.0% (61 closures)

#### Adult Arrests (week end. 7/24/04)

- Total: 1,002
- Drugs: 147
- Weapons: 15
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 24
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 65

#### Firearm Recoveries (as of 7/28/04)

- 2004 Total: 1,185
- July: 139

#### Traffic Fatalities (as of 7/30/04)

- 2004: 32
- 2003: 39
- % Change: -17.9%